BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0421512611

SURVEY NO.: B-2151

Address: 300 Cathedral Street

Current Name: 300 Cathedral Building

Block: 579

Height: 4

Lot: 15

Materials: Brick and stone Owner: Cathedral Place Ltd.

Lot size:155 ft. x 86 ft.

Condition: Excellent Accessible: Yes, restricted Use: Commercial

Liber/Folio: CWM 4139/689 Designation: NR



Historic Name: Odd Fellows Hall

Date: 1891; 1931

Architect/Builder: Frank E. Davis

Style (if appropriate): Romanesque Revival

Description: The building has two major facades on Saratoga and Cathedral Streets. The Saratoga elevation has five bays with a central arched entrance with brownstone Romanesque columns and architraves. The windows in the flanking bays have 8/12 sash, stone sills, and gauged flat arches. The windows of the stone basement level have iron bars. A belt course of brownstone separates the first and second stories. The windows of the upper floors are similar to the first floor except for the central bay which has four 4/6 arched windows on the second floor, a tripartite window on the third and fourth floors, and a band course along the lintels of the fourth floors. Brick recessed panels are between the third and fourth stories. The Cathedral Street elevation is dominated by a two-story projecting entrance with a brownstone arch. An irregular fenestration pattern on this facade features the same window treatment as on the Saratoga facade. The archway is in the northernmost bay of the five on this elevation. Adjoining the building on the north is a three-story, threebay section which was altered in 1931 and has a brownstone entrance. The entrance formerly had a marquee but now has a modern glass and steel door. A cornerstone at the northeast corner reads "I.O.O.F. 1891, 1931". Significance:

Area: architecture, social/humanitarian Level: Local

The Odd Fellows Hall is a notable version of the Romanesque Revival style which displays a high level of brickmasonry craftsmanship. A late 1970's adaptive re-use project retained most of its exterior architectural character while providing modern office space in the renovated interior. The building is also significant as the second home of the International Order of Odd Fellows in America. The IOOF was founded by Thomas Wildey in 1819 in Baltimore. The first Lodge was on Gay Street near Fayette, built in 1830. When the Order outgrew that building, the present Hall was built in 1890-91. During World War II, the U.S.O. occupied the northern section of the Hall and, with a short break between 1945 and 1951, remained at that location until 1975.

See National Register form.

NR form, CHAP file.

Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, February 1985





Odd Fellows Hall B-2151
300 Cathedral Street
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: August 1984
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Southeast corner view

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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"ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Odd Fellows Hall (now called Cathedral Place) is a large, two-part Romanesque brick structure located at the important intersection of Cathedral and Saratoga Streets i downtown Baltimore. The massive building features large, fully arched entranceways, extensive brick detailing, and an unusual configuration of hipped roofs. Built in 1891, it was remodeled in 1931 and is presently undergoing renovation. It is an important visual landmark in an area abounding with historic structures.

The Saratoga Street facade is four stories high and five bays wide. The foundation walls are constructed of stone, and the building walls of stretcher bond red brick, recenly cleaned and re-pointed. Fenestration is proportional and symmetrical. The large, fully arched, centrally positioned entranceway on this facade is defined by two stone columns with Romanesque capitals. The columns and ornamental stone consoles support a brownstone architrave and a fully arched brownstone hood. The voussoirs of the entrance arch are gauged brick. Eight steps lead to a landing within the archway. The entrance vestibule has marble walls and a ceiling of wood paneled squares painted red with ivory and brown borders. Two lights are recessed into the ceiling. Six additional stone steps with simple wrought iron railings along the vestibule walls lead to double glass doors, which are surmounted by a fully arched fanlight.

Four windows protected by wrought iron bars punctuate the foundation walls on this facade. The windows have splayed, gauged brick lintels. The windows on the first level have eight-over-twelve sash, brownstone sills, and large gauged brick lintels. (According to old photographs, the original windows were styled with diamond-shaped upper light. A brownstone bandcourse separates the first and second levels. The second and third levels each have four windows identical to those on the first floor; however, there are differing windows above the entranceway. Four four-over-six, tall, arched windows with gauged brick voussoirs lie above the entrance on the second level. The third level has a large centrally positioned, tri-partite, multi-paned window. It has sills and lintels styled in the fashion of other third level windows. The windows on the fourth level are fully arched. A band course runs along the lintel of these windows. The central window is large and tri-partite. Five recessed brick panels lie just below these windows, between the third and fourth levels. The building walls of the Saratoga Street facade are capped by an overhanging denticulated metal cornice.

The Cathedral Street facade conforms to the slope in the street with the southern part of the building, which descends to Saratoga Street. This facade is characterized by a large two-story projecting entranceway with a large brownstone arch. The arch encompasses double glass doors and a large arched window encased in bronzed aluminum. The intrados of the arch is decorated with a geometric design and fleuroned Guilloche molding. Two brownstone band courses run along the projecting entrance. The entrance is capped by a large metal cornice and entablature. (The entrance originally was topped with a balcony overlooking Cathedral Street. The arched panel over the doors also differed. See pre-1931 photo.)

The wall above the entranceway on this facade is slightly recessed. Two four-section multipane windows lie above the entrance. The fourth level window is fully arched. A stone tablet below this window originally displayed "I.O.O.F." (Independent Order of Odd Fellows).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

Form No 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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Odd Fellows Hall Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The south building section is five bays wide, including the entrance bay described above, and four stories high. The windows are styled similarly to the Saratoga Street facade with fully arched fourth floor windows. The central windows on the third and fourth levels are set close together.

The north building section is three stories high and three bays wide. This section was altered in 1931, adding a second entrance on Cathedral Street. The entrance is encased in brownstone. It has two double glass doors surmounted by a large stone displaying, "J.F. Grottendick and Sons", in gold letters (it previously read "MCMXXXI" and had a marquee above the entrance.) The first and second level windows wer altered in 1931.

The first level windows have been bricked in except for three small six-paned windows below the lintel on each bay. Those on the second level consist of multi-paned, tri-partite windows below the lintel and three small four-paned windows above the sill with brick in between. (The original window styles can be seen on an early photo.) The third level windows are large, fully arched, and multi-paned. The central bay on this floor has a blind arch. The cornerstone on the northern building section displays I.O.O.F. 1891". The Cathedral Street facade ends in an overhanging denticulated metal cornice.

The other building facades face adjacent buildings and are only accessible via alleys. The northern facade has many bricked in windows and a fire escape. The western facade features many smaller, segmentally arched windows.

The south section has a hipped roof punctuated by three long dormers with diamond-shaped lights; the north section also has a hipped roof. Three interior chimneys are located along the south building section.

The interior of the Odd Fellows Hall features a variety of decorations and styling from the original building (see 1892 description), 1931 alterations, and modern adaptation taking place at the present. The original interior decorations which are extant include: the restored paneling in a first floor office (photograph #11); the ballroom on the fourth floor (photograph#14); and the unaltered attic space (photograp #15). The wall mural (photograph #12) has been concealed in the process of modernizing the building for offices.

Many of the 1931 Art Deco lamps have been included in the present renovation process. Portions of the first, second, and third floors have been renovated. These renovations from 1976 to 1978 have included a complete modernization of heating, plumbing, and other building systems; installation of textured plaster wall surfaces and wall to wall carpeting; new lobby areas emphasizing the building's 1931 Art Deco motif; and the division of the original large rooms into smaller office space.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Odd Fellows Hall Baltimore City CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

New arched passageways have been added to accent original arched areas (photograph #8). Original windows have been retained, although at times separated from remodeled spaces (photograph #10). A retail store is housed in the former Odd Fellows Library on the Cathedral Street side. In the future, the building's fourth floor ballroom area will be remodeled for office space emphasizing the height and size of the ballroom. The basement and attic are also being considered for adaptation to office space

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SPECIFIC DATES

1891 and 1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank E. Davis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Odd Fellows Hall, completed in 1891, is a predominantly Romanesque structure, with an impressive display of brick masonry, which is not characteristic of the style. Anchoring the sloping northwest corner of Cathedral and Saratoga Streets, the building is an important visual landmark in downtown Baltimore. It is also significant as the second hall built specifically for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Baltimore. The Odd Fellows were founded in Baltimore in 1819. Today the building, re-named Cathedral Place, represents a careful adaptive re-use effort with the retention of important architectural elements, yet modernization of the structure's interior to meet city codes and provide modern office space.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded under the leadership of Thomas Wildey in 1819. Wildey emigrated from London to Baltimore in 1817. Upon meeting prejudice against Englishmen in the post-War of 1812 period, he sought the acquaintance and accompaniment of his fellow countrymen. He and John Welsch, both Odd Fellows in England, organized the first meeting of the Odd Fellows at the Seven Stars Tavern (roughly the site today of the Inner Harbor Campus of the Community College of Baltimor In 1820 this Lodge, known as the Washington Lodge, was recognized by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) in England and granted permission to establish other lodges throughout the country. As the organization grew, the Odd Fellows Hall was built at Gay Street near Fayette Street. This was the first building erected by the Odd Fellows in America. The Odd Fellows met at this hall for sixty-one years, adding new wings to the building, but the organization outgrew this facility and sought a site for a new hall (the old building was subsequently demolished).

The site at Cathedral and Saratoga Streets was purchased for \$42,300 around 1889, and Frank E. Davis was commissioned to prepare the design. Among Davis' major commissi prior to the Odd Fellows Hall were the State Normal School on Lafayette Square (demolished 1975), New Shiloh Baptist Church, and the Pine Street Police Station. original design for the Hall was an ornately styled Richardsonian Romanesque composition (see illustration). However, the building, when constructed in 1891, was rather simple devoid of the ornamentation traditionally attached to buildings of its stature. Odd Fellows felt this was in "accordance with the plain character of Wildey, the distinguished founder of the Order, who was, in parlence 'as plain as a pipe stem', but with a heart as large and sympathetic as the principles of the Order, the foundation of which he so well laid". Even with the building's less ornate character, it was well received by critics of the day.

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Odd Fellows Hall Baltimore City CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The Hall, with its fine, flat detail, careful fenestration, and masterful brickwork is one of the most valuable architectural assets in the area. It is located at an intersection which provides one of the best samplings, in a small area, of the range of architectural styles, building types, and bricklaying techniques used in Baltimore between 1789 and 1960. Across Cathedral Street from the building is the Saint Paul's Rectory, which is listed on the National Register. Just west of the building, at Park Avenue and Saratoga Street is the Saint Alphonsus Church, Rectory, Convent and Hall. also on the National Register. The Odd Fellows Hall is a prime example of the styling which would dominate Baltimore architecture between 1890 and 1910, massive and restrained, yet intimate and reposed.

In 1931 the building was altered, producing a second entrance on Cathedral Street and altering the window styling on the north building section. The interior was modernized as well, in the style of Art Deco. By 1975 the building which had once housed the headquarters and twenty chapters of the Order of Odd Fellows housed only two or three chapters, and the rest of it stood empty--a perfect candidate for demoliti

Joseph R. Azola and Associates purchased the building in May, 1976. With Warren Peterson, the architect of the project, J.R. Azola and Associates have transformed the Hall into a modern office building, called Cathedral Place. In the process, they restored most of the building's 1889 exterior and have retained important interior details such as the 1931 Art Deco lamps and knotty pine paneling. New elements such as the main staircase in the lobby on Cathedral Street emphasize the building's Art Deco interior characteristics. Exterior transformation, such as the glass inserts in the Cathedral Street arch, accent the height of the arch and exposes interior staircases to passersby. The building has also been made accessible to the handicapped by grading the sidewalk in front of the northern Cathedral Street entrance.

Cathedral Place is one of Baltimore's best examples of an adaptive reuse project. The building symbolizes a commitment to preserve landmark structures and to invest in the City's downtown area. As the owners state:

The Design elements of the landmark building are virtually impossible to duplicate. The handsome exterior architecture and renovated interior, we feel, make Cathedral Place a classic office building. As we like to say, it offers you the best of both worlds. . . . We have made a substantial personal commitment to downtown Baltimore. We believe in the success of the budding revitalization in the city.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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Odd Fellows Hall Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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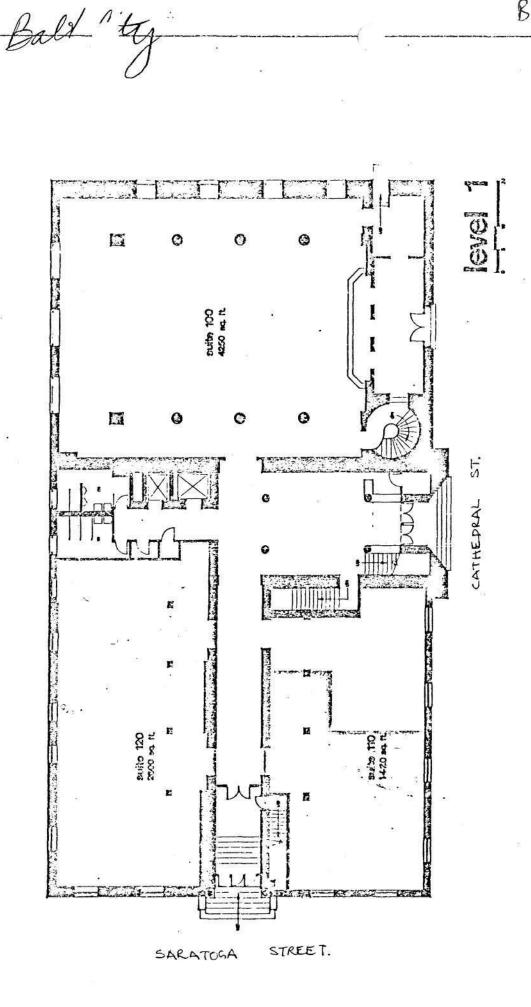
AGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Addendum

For much of the time between May 1942 and September 1975, portions of the Odd Fellows Hall housed U.S.O. facilities in the Baltimore area. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, the U.S.O opened offices in Baltimore at 339 North Charles Street, the YMCA building, and other downtown locations. Ridgely's Hall (probably the Grand Ballroom in the Odd Fellows Hall was first used for Saturday night dances, accomodating the overflow from the YMCA building. In 1943 a separate U.S.O. club, Club 3-B, began operating at the Odd Fellows Hall. By July 1944, it was the second largest U.S.O. club in the City, with an attendance of 39,000 servicemen a month. Operated under the auspices of the YMCA, the U.S.O. club had two large lounges and a ballroom. The building was partially remodeled by the U.S.O. in this period. After the War ended in 1945, the U.S.O. closed their doors in Baltimore. They reopened at the outbreak of the Korean War. The U.S.O. remained in the Odd Fellows Hall until 1975.

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- MERCANTILE SAFE DEPOSIT & TRUST BUILDING
- OLD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
- PEABODY INSTITUTE
- THOMAS-JENCKS-GLADDING HOUSE
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- 106 EMERSON (BALTIMORE ARTS) TOWER
- 110 MOTHER SETON HOUSE
- 111 OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING
- 115 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
- 116 ST. PAUL'S RECTORY
- 117 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH
- 118 US CUSTOMS HOUSE
- 119 WESTMINSTER CHURCH AND CEMETERY
- 120 BALTIMORE CITY HALL



201 FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

- 204 BASCILICA OF THE ASSUMPTION
- 205 PEALE MUSEUM
- 208 ST. MARY'S SEMINARY CHAPEL



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- 305 FRANKLIN ST. CHURCH AND MANSE
- 306 HOWARD ST. TUNNEL
- 309 MT. VERNON PLACE CHURCH AND ASBURY HOUSE
- 310 DRCHARD ST. CHURCH
- 311 PASCAULT ROW
- 313 ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH. . RECTORY, CONVENT & HALL
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404 IRA REMSEN HOUSE

405 HENRY AUGUST ROWLAND HOUSE

406 WILLIAM H. WELCH HOUSE



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	▼ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ ·Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	10)		(Che	ck One)
		red	☐ Uncltered	B	☐ Moved	C Original Site

The former assembly building of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows is a corner structure which is four and a half stories high. The structure is laid in a dark brown brick running bond pattern. The most interesting features are the entrances, the different styles of fenestrations, and the cornice. Stone steps lead up to the Saratoga Street entrance which has a marble vestibule and an inner door. The entrance is a fully arched brick structure with two brown stone pillars on either side. The left (south) entrance on Cathedral is full arched also with carved panels on both sides. The arch is located within a rectangular brick structure which protrudes from the rest of the building by several feet. Below the transom there is white stone around the modern double doors. This stone has decorative carving. This entrance also has a vestibule and an inner door. Across the top of the entrance structure is a copper cornice with dentil molding. The right (north) entrance is smaller. The doorfrane is white stone and above the door is inscribed MCMXXXI. There is a marquee which is attached to the building with a decorative turnbuckle.

There are several types of fenestrations on both sides of the building. The first floor windows are rectangular with brown stone sills and and flat arched brick lintels. The panes are eight over twelve. The other type of window found on the next three floors along with the rectangular windows are full arched windows of various sizes. These have brown stone sills and full arched brick lintels. There are dormer windows above the fourth floor. There is a three section dormer on Saratoga Street and a two section and another three section dormer on Cathedral Street. These all have leaded diamond shaped glass panes. Above the first floor is a brown stone belt course which is along the same line as the sills.

The cornice is made out of copper and it ledges out over the sides of the building. It is a beamed cornice. The roof is hipped and there are four brick chimneys generally located in the center of the roof. Other features of the building are the granite foundation and the decorative brick panels under the fourth floor windows. There is a panel of carved stone with I.O.O.F. below the arched window which is above the left (south) entrance. The cornserstone dates 1891.

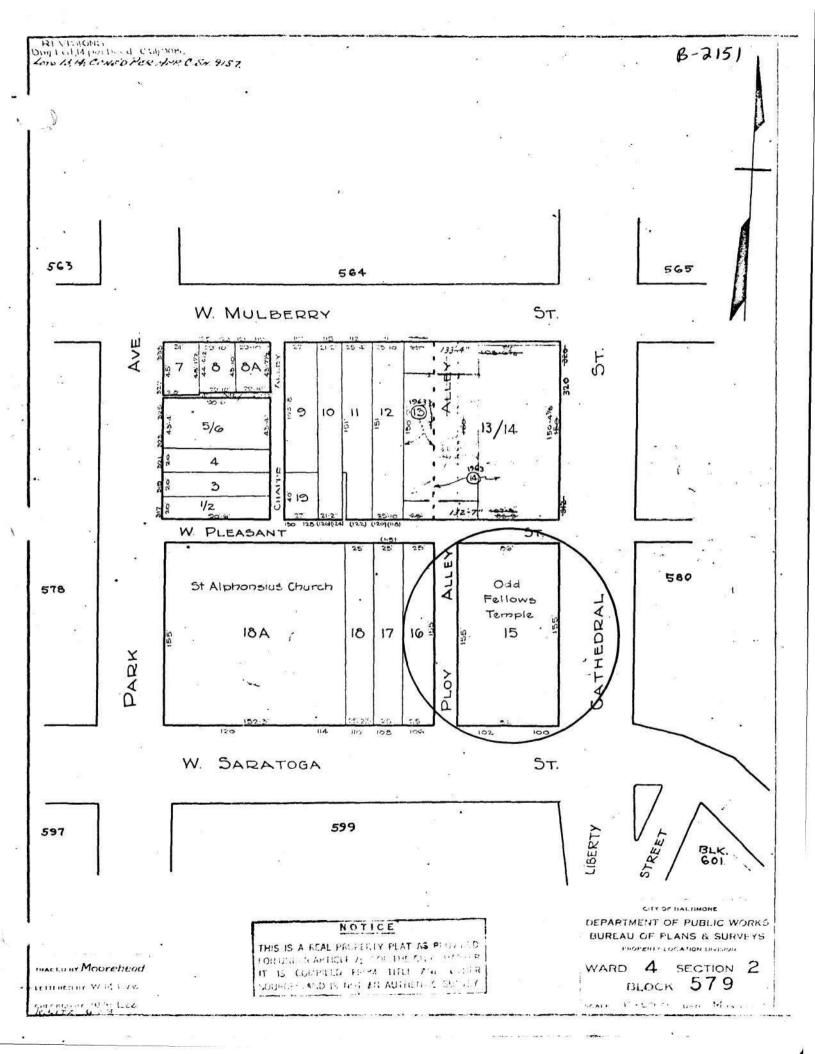
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known) 189	I (COMER STONE)	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Approp	riate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

The nineteenth century buildings on this block are an indication of Baltimore life at that time. Both St. Alphonsus Church and the former Odd Fellows Temple have religious and social significance as to nineteenth century life. The rowhouses are also significant of this past. Many of the buildings have been altered to accomodate the needs of the Several of the buildings on the block present. have architectural significance especially St. Alphonsus Church and the Odd Fellows Temple. This architectural value contributes greatly to the significance of the block as a whole.

Occupying prominent corner site, this massive building designed by Frank E. Davis, is difficult to categorize as to style. The gently sloping hipped roofs with deep bracketed eaves, the round headed windows, and picturesqued steeped massiving are somewhat reminiscent of the Italian Villa style of the mid 19th century. The flat, crisp restrained detailing and the elegant manner in which the walls are patterned by the fenestration are unique.

The first American branch of the International Order of Old Fellows was founded in Baltimore on April 26, 1819 by Thomas Wildey and four others at the Seven Stars Tavern. From the start of this first unit, Washington Lodge #1 to the establisment of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of 100F in the United States, Baltimore has always been a center of Old Fellows activity.

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